

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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May 4, 2004

FROM: ELIZABETH SANCHEZ, Employee Relations Chief
Human Resources Department

**SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUND PHYSICIAN SERVICES CLAIM
REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES AND CHANGE IN PERCENTAGE OF DISTRIBUTION**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve revision to Emergency Medical Services Fund Physician Services Claims Reimbursement Procedures effective May 1, 2004.
2. Approve reduction in percentage of payments from 50% to 40% of eligible charges based upon the St. Anthony Relative Values for Physicians (using previously approved conversion factors).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On September 19, 1988, the Board approved the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the County of San Bernardino and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District creating a public entity known as Arrowhead Health Administrators (AHA) (Agreement No. 88-839). AHA was created for the purpose of processing and adjusting employee health and welfare benefits and County Medical Services Program/Medically Indigent Adult (CMSP/MIA) plan claims.

On May 21, 2002, the Board approved the dissolution of AHA and the transition of service provision to the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) and the Human Resources Department. ARMC assumed responsibility for the administration of the CMSP/MIA and the Children's Tobacco Act Protection (C-TAP) programs. Human Resources, Risk Management Division assumed administration of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs SB612 and AB75 because per state law, ARMC cannot administer these two programs. Human Resources, Employee Benefits and Services Division was charged with the administration of the Short Term Disability (STD) and Dependent Care Assistance (DCAP) programs along with the Exempt and general employee Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) for health related expenses. The vision plan administered by AHA was outsourced to a vendor to provide the best benefits to employees in the most cost effective manner. Bringing those functions in-house streamlined processes, eliminated duplication, and allowed ARMC and Human Resources to more efficiently control associated costs with savings of \$326,868 per year.

Risk Management has been administering the AB75 and SB612 EMS programs since July 1, 2002. Efficiencies to date include the elimination of two of the assigned extra help positions and automation of the claims process. Approval of this item will allow the revision of the Procedures Manual to incorporate State revisions to the statutes and reduction in the percentage of eligible payment to more effectively disburse funds to County physicians.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Michael Sachs, Chief Deputy County Counsel, 387-5281) on April 1, 2004 and the County Administrative Office (Daniel R. Kopp, Administrative Analyst, 387-3828) on April 26, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of this item will not result in additional cost.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Pamela H. Thompson, Risk Manager, 386-8620

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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